The Repeater

The W6VVR Newsletter

Happy Holidays!

The Newsletter for December 2024

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THE VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance.

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625- 0143.

An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988.

General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM See the directions on the last several pages.

Meetings Are Wheelchair Accessible

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A **LONG LONG** Message from The Editors of The Repeater

Welcome to December!

As I sit here and write this, we have our annual Holiday dinner coming up, we have Yule, Saturnalia, Christmas, Hanukkah, and whatever other holiday you may celebrate this month.

This month should be a time for reflection as well. Time to say “The year is ending, what have I accomplished this year with both my life and for amateur radio’s continuing existence.

We need to reach out to our members who are not participating and find out WHY they are not getting involved with meetings and events we do. Without everyone’s participation, we will get nowhere. I am going to bring a very very hard truth to this table about our club. A lot of members of our club who do participate in meetings are close to or over the age of 50. We rarely see younger people at the club. I know we have other members that I am sure are a bit younger, but do not participate in the club. We need to find out why they are not participating.

We should be taking this month to realize we lost a very valuable supplier of amateur radio equipment when MFJ Enterprises shut down, and if others haven’t taken the names and taken over the building of the equipment from them, we will be forced to go back to our roots and, OH MY GOD!,build things ourselves again. And if you notice, QST has gotten a little bit slimmer now, as have several of the Ham Radio suppliers catalogs.

How many of us could build a simple transmitter and receiver in an emergency just by scavenging parts from something else? With the abundance of micro electronics, how many of us even have anything we could scavenge from?

We as a community need to go back to our roots and really learn to make our own equipment and not rely on buying simple things like antennas, test equipment, etc.

The older ARRL magazines are out there filled with information that we can use to make our own equipment. Perhaps it is time to say “Lets try this and see what happens?”

Yes, it’s always easy to buy things, and yes, we do have to occasionally, but wasn’t and isn’t the fun of amateur radio building stuff and having it work? Or perhaps something you built didn’t work, maybe the satisfaction comes from troubleshooting what you did wrong until it does work.

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Remember sometimes building something simple to operate with may come in handy in the future.

Perhaps having our children see us actually MAKING something might spark their interest.

In the upcoming year, I am proposing, as a club, we work on learning Morse code together. We can learn on our own together using Zoom and an app for the phone called IZ2UUF or we could learn from someplace like CW Academy or the Long Island CW Club.

There are 52 weeks in a year, and only 26 letters, 10 numbers, 19 punctuation symbols, and 12 pro-signs. Within a year we could all be proficient with at least the letters, numbers and punctuation symbols at no less than 20 wpm.

YES, it will take commitment on everyone's part. And yes, it will take time away from other things in our life. But that commitment can mean the difference between making a contact when needed or not getting help in an emergency.

How many clubs would actually be able to say all their members are cw trained and can work from a tuna can transceiver? Tuna Can Transceiver

I do remember the club at one point also discussed the idea of working on an AREDN mesh system. Perhaps we can investigate that as a possibility again. And yes it is an investment that is a bit pricier than a Baofeng set up but it can bring us into digital communications for our club without needing the internet.

There are so many aspects that we can do as radio operators that we cant see the forest through the trees so to speak. Everyone of us also has different interest but as a club we should try and come together and decide what as a club we want to do and focus our interest on.

We don't have the funding like most of the larger clubs such as MDARC or Santa Clara and we all have different interest and desires, but, lets try and make the club grow into something people will want to join and participate in.

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I could be one of those that cry out “HAM RADIO IS DYING!!!”

I don’t see that it is, but we do need to start finding was to get younger people interested in amateur radio.

As for gaining new younger hams, we need to find a way to get our proverbial foot in the door of schools. And I know that is hard to do since so many schools are only interested in students doing sports or are politically correct. Any other clubs are virtually shunned by faculty or not even allowed by the powers that be. So we may need to look to other means to encourage younger people to become interested in amateur radio.

Most schools have a park right near them that students can go through to get out of the school property. Perhaps we can set up there maybe an hour before school gets out and parents come to pick up their students. This way we are established and ready for the parents to see us as well as the students when the students leave school.

Perhaps setting up in the parking lot of a local library for a few hours in the afternoon? Maybe visit a YMCA or a Boys club of America? Even perhaps an after-school program?

I do know that visibility in and around where younger people congregate is the key.

I don’t have the answers, just the desire to encourage youngsters to join our ranks, get our current members participating, and move the club forward as a whole.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season and hope that for the new year we can come together even stronger.

73

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A Message from The President

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the President
Servando Miramontes, K6SRV

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A message from the Vice President

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the Vice President Dan Martin N6ETR

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A message from the Treasurer

Well the year is just about over, the Holiday Dinner is coming up in a couple of weeks. If you haven't RSVP'd for the dinner yet you can find the link on the club home web page and in the weekly Net reminders I send out.

We're ending the year in a much better position financially than when we started it.

VACA VALLEY
RADIO CLUB
NOTES 2024

	PROJECT FUND	REPTR FUND	TOTAL FUNDS	NON-DED FUNDS
2023 Forward	616.00	2582.09	3170.58	-27.51
YTD Received	0.00	638.00	7747.58	7109.58
YTD Paid	0.00	376.19	4418.69	4042.50
YTD Funds	616.00	2843.90	6499.47	3039.57

As you can see, we started the year with our General Fund, or Non-Dedicated Funds, in the hole. We now have just over $3000 available for club activities. Part of that will be used as an offset for the Holiday Dinner cost, but not too much which means next year we start our on a strong footing. There are a number of projects the board is looking at regarding Repeater site and capabilities.

See you at the dinner and next year. Happy Holidays to everyone.

Bryan, KBØA

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A Message from the Secretary

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the Secretary
Mike Rogers KN6MIO

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Meetings recorded by the Secretary

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB MEETING
11/12/2024

I. 1900 Flag Salute.

II. 1905 Discussion about the Day of the Dead event, Christmas Dinner/Meeting.

III. 1930 Elections Held

IV. 2015 Meeting Adjourned.

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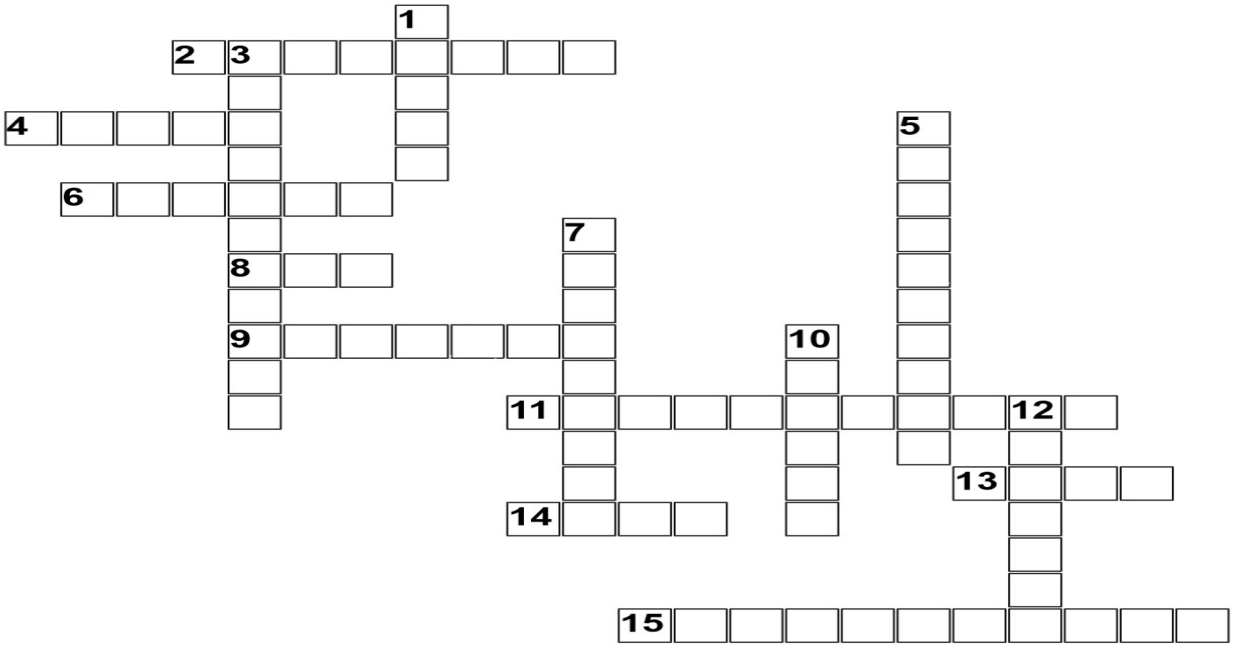
W6VVR Crossword

Have fun



Across

2. Beams are generally made of this metal.
4. A rectangular type of antenna used in VHF/UHF.
6. I am even on both sides.
8. This rises when an antenna is not tuned.
9. This helps hold a mast or tower up.
11. This can be added to electrically tune an antenna.
13. The creator of the horizontal beam antenna.
14. One of these can be rotated.
15. A vertical antenna with an artificial ground.

Down

1. The impedance of LMR400 coaxial cable.
3. VHF and UHF are this.
5. The opposite of vertical.
7. This can be added to electrically lengthen an antenna .
10. Antennas work better with this....
12. A type of cable.

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About learning Morse code.

If you read the editorial, you saw I mentioned everyone in the club learning Morse code.

I gave Bryan a set of Morse code sound files that range from 20-45WPM in 5WPM increments to post on the club website. I also gave him a set of text files for the IZ2UUF Morse Code application for android phones. In the future I hope to expand on those files so we may have our own set of training materials.

There are other sites as well for learning Morse code, most notably LI CW Club and CW Academy. The difference between the two clubs is how you are taught.

LI CW Club

https://longislandcwclub.org/

THERE IS A LOT AND i DO MEAN A LOT OF LINKS TO READ THERE

They also have a Youtube page and this is the link

https://www.youtube.com/@longislandcwclub

This is the LI CW Club Online Practice Page

https://longislandcw.github.io/morsebrowser/

CW Academy

These are links to CW Ops training information

https://cwops.org/cw-academy/cw-academy-student-resources/

This is the link to the CW Acadamy Morse Code Trainer

https://morsecode.world/international/trainer/trainer.html

Continued on the next page.

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Here is another online CW learning page

https://lcwo.net/

We also have the ability to do our own lessons based off the work of CW Academy and LI Academy as well as other sources on the internet and other programs as well as by using zoom. We can set up practice sessions for everyone and work as a group or individually.

Perhaps as a club we can explore and decide which group we would like to try. But again this is a club decision. I do know, as a club, we can learn Morse Code, and I am issuing a challenge to all members to learn Morse Code in 2025.

73

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Winter Field Day

Winter Field Day will be arriving on January 25th and 26th 2025.

This will be the 18th year of Winter Field Day being held.

It is not an official ARRL sanctioned event but still provides an opportunity for education and learning.

Learning to operate in the snow, cold weather, rain, when things probably WONT go right is what this is designed for.

Learning to operate while being uncomfortable during the winter as opposed to summer when the weather is supposed to be good is what this is about.

The official site is:

www.winterfieldday.org

Hope to see you there!

73

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A Suggestion About Next Years Field Day

I am offering a proposal about next years field day.

If you read the rules for field day, (and honestly you should be reading them.), there is a section about operating out of a public place where the general public can see us.

Now yes, where we have operated the last few years does technically qualify as a public place, however, our visibility is limited and inviting elected officials to a camp site doesn't seem to garner the attention we are trying to achive.

The rule for location:

7.3.3. Public Location: 100 bonus points for physically locating the Field Day operation in a public place (i.e. shopping center, park, school campus, etc) and actively welcoming the public. Person(s) shall be available to greet the public and be identified by some sort of name badge. The intent is for amateur radio to not only be on display to the public, but also to engage any visitors showing up at your location. **Available to Classes A, B and F.**

I am proposing that this year we try and find a location in Vacaville, Fairfield or Susuin that is a public business, such as Ihop, Walmart, or any area that would receive pedestrian traffic, that we would be welcome to set up and operate from for the duration of field day IN their parking lot.

I am suggesting staying away from Solano Mall as we can only be in one area and the mall has at least four or five direct entrances and multiple entrances from other stores.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions on how to do this, perhaps you could let everyone know your ideas.

Again this is a suggestion.

73

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The Learning Corner

Links for equipment and parts for your Station

This month I am turning the learning corner into a links page of suppliers for your amateur radio endeavors. This will be by no means a complete list, and you should verify if what you need is available.

Obviously, I am going to start with amateur radio suppliers such as:

Ham Radio Outlet

DX Engineering

Gigaparts

Next are antenna parts suppliers:

American Radio Supply

Amateur Radio Supplies

Continental Steel

Stock Car Steel

Aluminum Wholesalers

And electronics parts suppliers:

Mouser Electronics

Jameco Electronics

Arrow Electronics

Digikey Electronics

Continued on the next page.

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Newark

Elliott Electronic Supply

Test Eqipment:

Test Equipment Depot

Siglent Technologies

Jameco Electronics

Fluke

As I have said this is by no means a complete list but you should recognize most names on the list.

73

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Recurring Club Meetings and Events
December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Club Net	4	5 Cow Town	6	7
8	9	10 Club Net	11	12 Cow Town Club Meeting	13	14 KK6ZJC Ecomm training 1900 hrs
15	16	17 Club Net	18	19 Cow Town	20	21
22	23	24 Club Net	25 Christmas Hanukkah starts	26 Cow Town	27	28
29	30	31 Club Net	1 Happy New Year	2 Cow Town Hanukkah ends	3	4

Monthly Meetings are held at the Nut Tree Airport Vacaville CA	KK6ZJC can be reached by email at coffeeholic1a@yahoo.com Put ECOMM TRAINING in subject

Continued on the next page.

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Information About Recurring Club Meetings and Events

The club net is at 2000 hours EVERY Tuesday using the W6VVR Repeater:

Receive 145.470 Transmit 144.870 CTCSS Tone 127.3

The Club Cow Town is a general rag chew every Thursday on the W6VVR Repeater.
It starts about 1000-1030 local time using the same frequencies as above,

The monthly Club meeting is always held the second Thursday of the month at the Nut Tree Airport. The meeting starts at 7PM local time and generally runs through about 9PM.
Directions to the meeting can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Every Saturday the same week as the club meeting at 1900 hours local time KK6ZJC will be using zoom to practice passing messages.

Anyone wishing to join in contact KK6ZJC by email at coffeeholic1a@yahoo.com.
Please put ECOMM TRAINING in the subject.

I will generally check my emails right through Saturday night about 1830 hours local time.
After 1915 hours if no one joins the meeting, I shut Zoom down

it is a great way to learn how to pass messages using the ICS-213 form, or practicing sending messages for the general public using the ARRL forms.

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Special Club Meetings and Other Events in the area

I am listing all special events the club is looking for volunteers to assist in, fox hunts, or events out of the ordinary.

Club Meeting and annual Holiday Dinner at Chevy's Restaurant.

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Contest

Below is link to a great contesting website by fellow Amateur Radio Operator Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

https://contestcalendar.com/

The calendar list contest in multiple ways.

It is easy to use and regularly updated.

Hope that it helps you with your contesting!

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The Club Repeater(s)

The Vaca Valley Radio Club sponsors repeaters on several bands.
The club provides some financial support, but the owners provide a substantial portion of the cost of their operation.
The efforts of the owners are greatly appreciated.

The main repeater for the club is:

Call Sign: W6VVR
Output Frequency: 145.470MHz
Input Frequency: 144.870MHz
CTCSS tone (P.L.): 127.3Hz
Offset Frequency: 600KHz
Offset Direction: Minus

Vaca Valley Radio Club Sponsored Repeaters
As Of November 1, 2023

Rptr Out	Offset	P.L.	Call/ Location	Linked Repeaters
145.470	Minus 600 KHz	127.3	W6VVR Mt Vaca	Linked to 441.650 MHz
440.025	Plus 5 MHz	127.3	WV6F Mt Vaca	
441.650	Plus 5 MHz	100.0	N6VLF Fairfield	Linked to 145.470 MHz
145.140	Minus 600 KHz	77.0 DG-ID 00-00	Moderate level	Can operate Yaesu Fusion AMS Can be linked to 145.470 MHz or 441.650 MHz

Visitors are welcome to use the repeaters.

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EchoLink and AllStar Nodes

The Vaca Valley Radio Club operates both an EchoLink and an Allstar Nodes that link to the clubs main repeater on 145.470 MHz on top of Mt Vaca.

NOTE: EchoLink is UP, Allstar node is UP.

Call Sign: W6VVR

EchoLink Node 454312 W6VVR-R

Allstar Node 51094

Visitors are welcome to use the nodes.

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2025 Officers:

President:	Servando Miramontes	K6SRV
Vice President:	Dan Martin	N6ETR
Treasurer:	Brian Steinberg	KB0A
Secretary:	Mike Gregory	WB6WYF

2024 Board of Directors:

Art Aronsen	WD6BQX
Chris Swanson	KJ6DLF
Mike Rogers	KN6MIO
Stephen Bartels	KK6ZJC

Net Control Operators

1st Week Of The Month	Bob Hawkins	KM6BXZ
2nd Week Of The Month	Chris Swanson	KJ6DLF
3rd Week Of The Month	Frank Garay	KJ6RWQ
4th Week Of The Month	Dan Martin	N6ETR
5th Week Of The Month	Dan Martin	N6ETR

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VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

Membership	Bryan Steinberg	KB0A
Repeater Trustee	Brian Hagen	KK6BXP
Repeater Committee Chair	Brian Hagen	KK6BXP
Newsletter Editor	Stephen Bartels	KK6ZJC
Webmaster	Bryan Steinberg	KB0A
Net Control Coordinator (Filled by the Vice President as per the Club Constitution)	Dan Martin	N6ETR
Activities Committee Chair	Don Preston	KM6INR
Monthly Message Passing Practice Net	Stephen Bartels	KK6ZJC
Foxhunt Coordinator		
Bicycle Events Coordinator		
Parade Events Coordinator		
Winter Field Day Committee		
Dixon Mayfair Parade		
June Field Day Committee		
Merriment on Main		
December Meeting		

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Volunteer Positions (Continued)

Public Information Officer

Winlink Committee Chair

FL-Digi Committee Chair

AREDN Committee Chair

We still have numerous committees that need chairpersons and volunteers for the upcoming year (2024). (See the list above.) They need to be filled for the upcoming year by younger volunteers and those with experience to guide the club forward into the future.

This is your club. You can make it a great club by participating in meetings, events, and nets, or you can watch the club wither away and die from lack of participation by ALL members.

It is in your hands, are you going to watch the club end or are you going to jump in and help steer the club forward to the future?

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Vaca Valley Radio Club, Inc

Membership Application/Renewal Form

November 2019 Dues are payable annually.

New Members Please Fill in All Fields Completely
Renewing Members Please Provide Name and Call Sign, Other Fields *Only if there are changes*

Member Information

FCC Name:_____

Street:_____

Street 2:_____

City:_____

State:_____ Zip-Code+4:_____

Home Phone:_____

Cell Phone:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Payment Information

Member Dues: $25.00 _____

Additional Family Members: $2.00 _____

Student: $5.00 _____

Repeater Donation: _____

Total:_____$_____

Paid by Check: $_____

Check number: _____

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Family Member (Spouse or Children) FCC Name:_____ Call Sign:_____ License Class:_____ ARRL Member?_____ Member No:_____ Name Badge Name_____	Family Member (Spouse or Children) FCC Name:_____ Call Sign:_____ License Class:_____ ARRL Member?_____ Member No:_____ Name Badge Name_____
Family Member (Spouse or Children) FCC Name:_____ Call Sign:_____ License Class:_____ ARRL Member?_____ Member No:_____ Name Badge Name_____	Family Member (Spouse or Children) FCC Name:_____ Call Sign:_____ License Class:_____ ARRL Member?_____ Member No:_____ Name Badge Name_____
Family Member (Spouse or Children) FCC Name:_____ Call Sign:_____ License Class:_____ ARRL Member?_____ Member No:_____ Name Badge Name_____	Family Member (Spouse or Children) Name:_____ Call Sign:_____ License Class:_____ ARRL Member?_____ Member No:_____ Name Badge Name_____

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Directions To the Monthly Meeting from Fairfield, Suisun City And Other Areas West of Vacaville

Coming from Fairfield: Take Highway 80 East Bound. Take exit 55 Nut Tree Parkway / Allison Drive. Stay to the left and enter the right left turn lane

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Turn left from the right turn lane and stay in the right lane. Be careful not to get back on the highway entrance.

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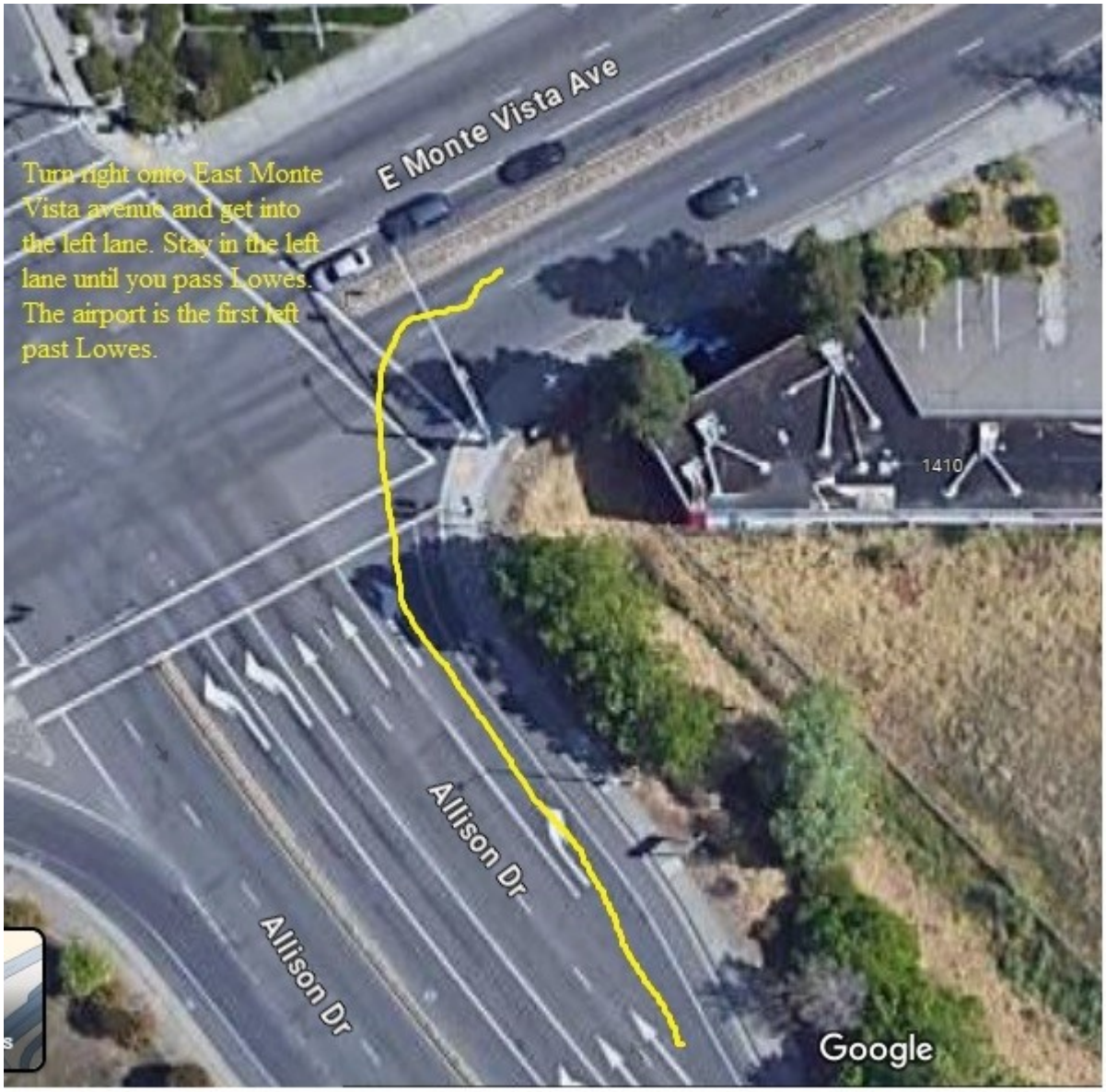
Go over the overpass and make the right turn onto East Monte Vista Avenue.



Get in the left lane of E Monte Vista Avenue and drive East until you pass Lowes.

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The airport is immediately past the Lowes Parking lot.

Turn left and drive to the airport parking lot on your right.

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Directions To The Monthly Meeting From Dixon, Sacramento And Other Areas East of Vacaville

Coming West from Dixon take the E Monte Vista Avenue exit, (exit 55)

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Take the Right turn Lane at the exit

Stay in the right lane until the light.

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At the light turn Right and get into the left lane.

After making the right turn, get into the left lane and drive East until you see Lowes.

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Turn left and drive to the airport parking lot on your right.

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